



State of Connecticut

# Environmental Review Checklist

Last Updated 02/25/2020

## Instructions for Use:

The Environmental Review Checklist (ERC), as defined in Sec. 22a-1a-1(9) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA), is intended to assist state agencies in (1) determining whether a proposed action or category of actions requires public scoping, or (2) in recording an agency's initial assessment of the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of a proposed action at the completion of public scoping.

For the purposes of CEPA, an Action is defined in Sec 22a-1a-1(2) of the RCSA as an individual activity or a sequence of planned activities initiated or proposed to be undertaken by an agency or agencies, or funded in whole or in part by the state.

Completion of the ERC is only *required* as part of a sponsoring agency's post-scoping notice in which the agency has determined that it will not be preparing an EIE (Sec. 22a-1a-7(d) of the RCSA).

In all other instances, the sponsoring agency has the option to use this form or portions of it, in conjunction with the applicable Environmental Classification Document (ECD), as a tool to assist it in determining whether or not scoping is required and to document the agency's review. This can be especially useful for an agency administering a proposed action that is not specifically represented in the ECD or which may have additional factors and/or indirect or cumulative impacts requiring further consideration.

Even if an agency ultimately determines that public scoping is not necessary, as a matter of public record OPM highly recommends that the agency internally document its decision, and its justification.

In completing this form, include descriptions that are clear, concise, and understandable to the general public.

Note that prior to reviewing a proposed action under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA), Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), Section 16a-31 requires agencies to review any proposed actions for the acquisition, development or improvement of real properties, or the acquisition of public transportation equipment or facilities, and in excess of \$200,000, for consistency with the policies of the State Plan of Conservation and Development (State C&D Plan).



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## PART I – Initial Review and Determination

Date:	December 30, 2025
Name of Project/Action:	Ridgefield High and Middle School Interconnection
Project Addresses:	Beginning at the intersection of North Salem Road and Craigmoor Road, extending northwest along North Salem Road to the Ridgefield High School and Scotts Ridge Middle School campus at approximately 700–750 North Salem Road, Ridgefield, Connecticut
Affected Municipalities:	Ridgefield
Sponsoring Agency:	Department of Public Health (DPH)
Agency Project Number, if applicable:	N/A
Project Funding Source/Program, if known:	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
Identify the Environmental Classification Document (ECD) being used in this review:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generic, or <input type="checkbox"/> Agency-Specific	
<input type="checkbox"/> An environmental assessment or environmental impact statement is being prepared pursuant to <u>NEPA</u> , and shall be circulated in accordance with CEPA requirements.	
<input type="checkbox"/> The proposed action requires a written review by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office (NATHPO). Include SHPO/NATHPO reviews as an attachment, or indicate the status of those reviews: Indicate status of SHPO and/or NATHPO review.	

Based on the analysis documented in this Environmental Review Checklist (ERC), and in consideration of public comments, this agency has determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for the proposed action is not warranted. Publication of this document to the Environmental Monitor shall satisfy the agency's responsibilities under [Section 22a-1a-7 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies](#) (RCSA).

Completed by: Lisette Stone, Environmental Analyst II, Department of Public Health

*Note that prior to commencing a CEPA review, Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Section 16a-31 requires state agencies to review certain actions for their consistency with the policies of the State Plan of Conservation and Development (State C&D Plan). Completion of this ERC assumes the agency has determined this proposed action to be consistent with the State C&D Plan.*



## PART II – Detailed Project Information

### **Description of the Purpose & Need of the Proposed Action:**

The purpose of the Ridgefield High and Middle School Interconnection Project is to improve drinking water reliability, water quality, and long-term operational sustainability for the Ridgefield High School and Scotts Ridge Middle School campuses. The schools are currently served by an on-site well and system with aging treatment, storage, and pumping facility. Continued reliance on this infrastructure presents increasing operational costs, regulatory compliance challenges, and limited flexibility to address future drinking water standards.

Interconnection with the Aquarion Water Company Ridgefield public water system (Aquarion) will provide system redundancy and allow for the decommissioning of the existing on-site treatment facilities, thereby enhancing public health protection and reducing long-term operational risk.

### **Description of the Proposed Action:**

The proposed action consists of the installation of approximately 950 linear feet of new water main along North Salem Road, beginning at the intersection with Craigmoor Road and extending northwest to the Ridgefield High School and Scotts Ridge Middle School campus. The project scope includes installation of new ductile iron water main within the existing roadway right-of-way, construction of a meter pit on the school campus, connection of the new water main to the existing campus distribution system, disconnection and discontinuation of the existing on-site well as a public water supply, and isolation of the existing treatment building to prevent cross-connection.

The proposed project does not expand the service area, does not increase authorized water withdrawals, and occurs entirely within Aquarion's Exclusive Service Area.

### **Alternatives Considered:**

Alternatives to the proposed action included taking no action, continued use of the existing system, and rehabilitation or replacement of on-site treatment infrastructure.

These alternatives were not selected due to higher long-term costs, limited space for future treatment upgrades, continued reliance on contract operations, and reduced regulatory flexibility. Interconnection with an existing regulated public water system was determined to be the most reliable and cost-effective solution.

### **Public concerns or controversy associated with the proposed action:**

During the open comment period, DPH received comments from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on October 2, 2025. DEEP's comments have been acknowledged, addressed by the applicant via a memorandum dated November 3, 2025, and are assessed in Part IV and Part VII. No public controversy or opposition was identified.

### PART III – Site Characteristics (Check all that apply)

The proposed action is non-site specific, or encompasses multiple sites;	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current site ownership:	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A, <input type="checkbox"/> State; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal, <input type="checkbox"/> Private, <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Please Explain.
Anticipated ownership upon project completion:	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A, <input type="checkbox"/> State; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal, <input type="checkbox"/> Private, <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Please Explain.

#### Locational Guide Map Criteria:

[2018-2023 Locational Guide Map \(arcgis.com\)](http://2018-2023 Locational Guide Map (arcgis.com))

##### Priority Funding Area factors:

- Designated as a Priority Funding Area, including  Balanced, or  Village PFA;
- Urban Area or Urban Cluster, as designated by the most recent US Census Data;
- Public Transit, defined as being within a ½ mile buffer surrounding existing or planned mass transit;
- Existing or planned sewer service from an adopted Wastewater Facility Plan;
- Existing or planned water service from an adopted Public Drinking Water Supply Plan;
- Existing local bus service provided 7 days a week.

##### Conservation Area factors:

- Core Forest Area(s), defined as greater than 250 acres based on the 2006 Land Cover Dataset;
- Existing or potential drinking water supply watershed(s);
- Aquifer Protection Area(s);
- Wetland Soils greater than 25 acres;
- Undeveloped Prime, Statewide Important and/or locally important agricultural soils greater than 25 acres;
- Category 1, 2, or 3 Hurricane Inundation Zone(s);
- 100 year Flood Zone(s);
- Critical Habitat;
- Locally Important Conservation Area(s),
- Protected Land (list type): Enter text.
- Local, State, or National Historic District(s).



## PART IV - Assessment of Environmental Significance – Direct, Indirect, And Cumulative Effects

Required Factors for Consideration (Section 22a-1a-3 of the RCSA)	Agency's Assessment and Explanation
Effect on water quality, including surface water and groundwater;	<p>The project area is not located within an Aquifer Protection Area or an area of coarse-grained deposits. The project does not involve new groundwater withdrawals and will permanently discontinue use of the existing on-site well as a public water supply.</p> <p>The proposed water main extension occurs within Aquarion Water Company's Exclusive Service Area and is exempt from water diversion permitting under RCSA §22a-377(b)-1(5), provided authorized withdrawals are not exceeded.</p> <p>Implementation of erosion and sedimentation controls (ESC) and construction Best Management Practices (BMP) will prevent impacts to nearby surface waters.</p>
Effect on a public water supply system;	<p>The project will improve drinking water quality, reliability, and redundancy for the school campus by transitioning service to a regulated public water system. The project eliminates reliance on aging on-site treatment infrastructure and improves long-term compliance with drinking water standards.</p>
Effect on flooding, in-stream flows, erosion or sedimentation;	<p>The project does not occur within a FEMA-designated floodplain. Therefore, Flood Management Certification is not required. Standard ESCs will be employed during construction. No impacts to in-stream flows or flood storage are anticipated.</p>
Disruption or alteration of an historic, archeological, cultural, or recreational building, object, district, site or its surroundings; A. Alteration of an historic building, district, structure, object, or its setting; OR B. Disruption of an archeological or sacred site;	<p>The project is confined to existing roadway corridors and previously developed school property. No impacts to historic, archaeological, cultural, or recreational resources are anticipated.</p>
Effect on natural communities and upon critical plant and animal species and their habitat; interference with the movement of	<p>The Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) is a record of state or federal listed species maintained by the Wildlife Division that may be found in the project area. This site is not in a NDDB area and therefore consultation with the NDDB Program is not required. No impacts to resident or migratory wildlife species are anticipated.</p>

any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species;	
Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment;	The project will not involve the use of pesticides or hazardous materials in quantities that would cause unreasonable adverse environmental effects.
Substantial aesthetic or visual effects;	The project is a subsurface utility improvement with short-term construction visibility. No substantial long-term aesthetic or visual effects are anticipated.
Inconsistency with: (A) the policies of the State C&D Plan, developed in accordance with section 16a-30 of the CGS; (B) other relevant state agency plans; and (C) applicable regional or municipal land use plans;	<p>The project is consistent with the <a href="#"><u>State of Connecticut's Plan of Conservation and Development</u></a> (POCD) including Growth Management Principles (GMP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.14: "<i>Support the introduction or expansion of public water...when there is a demonstrated environmental, public health, public safety, economic, social, or general welfare concern</i>" – <u>Id.</u> 16</li> <li>• 5.1: "<i>Utilize a multiple barrier approach to ensure the availability of safe and adequate public water supplies that meet or exceed state and federal drinking water standards</i>" – <u>Id.</u> 17</li> <li>• 6.3 "<i>Support the creation of objective and uniform protocols for public water</i>" – <u>Id.</u> 21</li> </ul>
Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal and regional plans, including impacts on existing housing where sections 22a- 1b(c) and 8-37t of the CGS require additional analysis;	The project will not divide an established community or affect housing. Temporary construction impacts will be confined to roadway work zones and managed through traffic control.
Displacement or addition of substantial numbers of people;	The project is not expected to displace any people.
Substantial increase in congestion (traffic, recreational, other);	Construction may cause temporary traffic delays along North Salem Road, but no substantial long-term congestion impacts are anticipated.
A substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use as a direct or indirect result of the action;	The project is not expected to result in a substantial increase in energy use and may reduce overall energy demand by eliminating on-site treatment operations.

The creation of a hazard to human health or safety;	The project is not expected to create a hazard to human health and safety. To the contrary, upon completion the project will improve health and safety by providing a more reliable and consistent drinking water supply to a critical public facility and reducing reliance on aging on-site infrastructure.
Effect on air quality;	The project is not expected to affect air quality.
Effect on ambient noise levels;	Temporary construction-related noise may occur but will be localized and short-term.
Effect on existing land resources and landscapes, including coastal and inland wetlands;	DEEP has indicated that the project does not appear to affect inland wetlands or watercourses. The applicant anticipates no wetland or watercourse impacts and will pursue appropriate permitting if unforeseen impacts are identified.
Effect on agricultural resources;	The project is not expected to affect agricultural resources.
Adequacy of existing or proposed utilities and infrastructure;	The project improves the adequacy of existing public water infrastructure serving Ridgefield High School and Scotts Ridge Middle School by adding a reliable interconnection to Aquarion's Ridgefield system. The engineering documentation indicates the interconnection is feasible and that a pressure reducing valve (PRV) is not needed due to comparable system water levels, with only minor pressure variation expected. Supporting utilities and infrastructure are adequate for construction and long-term operation.
Effect on greenhouse gas emissions as a direct or indirect result of the action;	The project is not expected to create greenhouse gas emissions.
Effect of a changing climate on the action, including any resiliency measures incorporated into the action;	The project enhances climate resilience by reducing reliance on localized infrastructure vulnerable to operational failure and by enhancing system redundancy.
Any other substantial effects on natural, cultural, recreational, or scenic resources.	The project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
Cumulative effects.	No significant cumulative impacts are anticipated. The project is a short, localized utility installation within existing developed corridors and does not expand service area or induce growth.

## **PART V - List of Required Permits, Approvals and/or Certifications Identified at the Time of this Review**

Possible Permits include: Local Planning & Zoning as applicable. Pursuant to RCSA [19-13-B102\(d\)](#), final plans and specifications will be submitted to DPH for approval.

## **PART VI – Sponsoring Agency Comments and Recommendations**

Based on DPH's review of the documents provided, including DEEP's comments and applicant responses, DPH finds the project will not significantly affect the environment and therefore does not require an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) under CEPA.

## **PART VII - Public Comments and Sponsoring Agency Responses:**

Public comments for this project were accepted through October 2, 2025. During the open comment period, DPH received a comment memorandum from DEEP dated October 2, 2025. DEEP identified no significant impacts, confirmed no NDDB listed species in the vicinity, and recommended BMPs and routine permits. The Town of Ridgefield responded to DEEP's comments on November 5, 2025. DPH will work with the Town of Ridgefield to ensure that DEEP's comments and recommendations are implemented through permit and construction specifications.